

CLAIMS

1. A digital broadcast receiving apparatus, comprising:

a receiver operable to selectively receive a plurality of digital broadcast signals, and to output digital data corresponding to said received digital broadcast signals, at least some of said output digital data corresponding to a plurality of different limited receiving modes;

a processor operable to selectively perform limited receiving processing for said at least some of said output digital data;

an IC card corresponding to one of said limited receiving modes and being operable to control contract information and scramble key information necessary to perform said limited receiving processing, said IC card key being mounted to an IC card interface section operable to communicate with said IC card;

an identifier operable to identify to which of said limited receiving modes said IC card mounted to said IC card interface section corresponds; and

a controller operable to control said processor to perform said limited receiving processing for said output digital data by use of said contract information and said scramble key information when said controller judges, based on the result of identification by said identifier, that said IC card mounted to said IC card interface section corresponds to said limited receiving mode of said output digital data.

2. A digital broadcast receiving apparatus, comprising:

a receiver operable to selectively receive a plurality of digital broadcast signals, and to output digital data corresponding to said received digital broadcast signals, at least some of said output digital data corresponding to a plurality of different limited receiving modes;

a processor operable to selectively perform limited receiving processing for said at least some of said output digital data;

a plurality of IC card interface sections, each of said IC cards being adapted for mounting to one of said IC card interface sections so that said one IC card interface section can communicate with said IC card mounted thereto;

an identifier operable to identify to which of said limited receiving modes a predetermined one of said IC cards mounted to one of said IC card interface sections corresponds; and

a controller operable to control said processor to perform said limited receiving processing for said output digital data by use of said contract information and said scramble key information controlled by said predetermined one of said IC cards when said predetermined one of said IC cards corresponds to said limited receiving mode of said output digital data.

3. The digital broadcast receiving apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an announcer operable to make an announcement to a user that two or more of said IC cards corresponding to an identical one of said limited receiving modes are mounted to said plurality of IC card interface sections.

4. The digital broadcast receiving apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said announcer makes said announcement by a display on a displaying section or by an on screen display.

5. The digital broadcast receiving apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said announcer makes said announcement by sound.

6. The digital broadcast receiving apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, when two or more of said IC cards corresponding to an identical limited receiving mode are

mounted to said plurality of IC card interface sections, one of said two or more IC cards is selected as an effective IC card through use of a graphical user interface.

7. A method for receiving digital broadcasts, comprising:

selectively receiving a plurality of digital broadcast signals, and outputting digital data corresponding to said received digital broadcast signals, at least some of said output digital data corresponding to a plurality of different limited receiving modes;

mounting an IC card to an IC card interface section, said IC card corresponding to one of said limited receiving modes and being operable to control contract information and scramble key information necessary to perform limited receiving processing for said at least some output digital data;

identifying to which of said limited receiving modes said IC card corresponds; and

performing said limited receiving processing for said output digital data by use of said contract information and said scramble key information when said IC card mounted to said IC card interface section corresponds to said limited receiving mode of said output digital data.

8. A method for receiving digital broadcasts comprising:

selectively receiving a plurality of digital broadcast signals, and outputting digital data corresponding to said received digital broadcast signals, at least some of said output digital data corresponding to a plurality of different limited receiving modes;

providing a plurality of IC cards, each of said IC cards corresponding to a different one of said limited receiving modes and being operable to control contract information and scramble key information necessary to perform

limited receiving processing for said at least some output digital data;

mounting a predetermined one of said IC cards to one of a plurality of IC card interface sections;

identifying to which of said limited receiving modes said predetermined one of said IC cards corresponds; and

performing said limited receiving processing for said output digital data by use of said contract information and said scramble key information controlled by said predetermined one of said IC cards when said predetermined one of said IC cards corresponds to said limited receiving mode of said output digital data.

9. The method for receiving digital broadcasts according to claim 8, further comprising making an announcement to a user that two or more of said IC cards corresponding to an identical one of said limited receiving modes are mounted to said plurality of IC card interface sections.

10. The method for receiving digital broadcasts according to claim 9, wherein said announcement is made on a displaying section or on an on screen display.

11. The method for receiving digital broadcasts according to claim 9, wherein said announcement is made by sound.

12. The method for receiving digital broadcasts according to claim 8, wherein, when two or more of said IC cards corresponding to an identical limited receiving mode are mounted to said plurality of IC card interface sections, one of said two or more IC cards is selected as an effective IC card through use of a graphical user interface.